

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NICOSI 01082 221017Z

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ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 EUR-12 SCA-01 SY-05 /022 W

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O R 221000Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1379

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1082

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CASC (SAVVIDES, LARRY)

SUBJECT: W/W LARRY SAVVIDES

REF: A. STATE 056597

B. NICOSIA 1021

1. CONSUL VISITED LARRY SAVVIDES IN YIALOUSA MARCH 21. SAVVIDES REPORTED BEATING BY TURKISH CYPRIOT SOLDIERS 3-4 WEEKS AGO. INCIDENT APPARENTLY SPARKED BY SOLDIERS' MISUNDERSTANDING THAT SAVVIDES LAUGHING AT THEM. SOLDIERS TOOK SAVVIDES TO NEARBY BEACH, WOULD NOT ACCEPT EXPLANATION, GAVE HIM BEATING WHICH PUT HIM IN BED FOR FOUR DAYS. SAVVIDES IN GOOD CONDITION NOW BUT DISTURBED BY SOLDIERS' THREAT "NEXT TIME WE'LL KILL YOU."

2. SAVVIDES ASKED CONSUL TO TAKE HIM BACK TO NICOSIA IMMEDIATELY IN CONSUL'S VEHICLE. CONSUL PREVENTED FROM DOING THIS BY LOCAL TURKISH CYPRIOT POLICE AND MILITARY AUTHORITIES. CONSUL TALKED TO REGIONAL MILITARY COMMANDER (TURKISH ARMY OFFICER WITHOUT INSUIGNIA) WHO SAID THAT PERMISSION FOR SAVVIDES' RELEASE WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM HIS SUPERIORS IN NICOSIA. CONSUL REQUESTED THAT COMMANDER ASSURE PROTECTION OF SAVVIDES UNTIL HIS RELEASE FROM YIALOUSA. COMMANDER AGREED TO TALK TO SAVVIDES PERSONALLY.

3. EMBASSY HAS CONTACTED TURKISH EMBASSY NICOSIA AND
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PAGE 02 NICOSI 01082 221017Z

DEFENSE MINISTER OREK (CONCURRENTLY "VICE PRESIDENT,

FEDERATED TURKISH CYPRIOT STATE"). WE HAVE THEIR ASSURANCES THAT SAVVIDES' RELEASE WILL BE EXPEDITED. THEY WOULD NOT GIVE FIRM DATE BUT WE WILL ATTEMPT TO ESCORT HIM OUT MARCH 24. EMBASSY STRESSED DANGER OF SAVVIDES' SITUATION INCLUDING POSSIBILITY OF RETRIBUTION AGAINST SAVVIDES FOR REPORTING BEATING.

4. SAVVIDES WIFE AND CHILDREN PREFER TO STAY IN YIALOUSA FOR PRESENT.
CRAWFORD

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